

South Dakota National Guard

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August 19, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

15 Soldiers commission as second lieutenants

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. – Fifteen South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers took the Oath of Office and commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony Saturday, Aug. 16, at Mount Rushmore National Park.

The second lieutenants recently completed Officer Candidate School through the SDNG 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, at Fort Meade, the first step in their officer training and development.

The guest speaker for the ceremony Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, explained to audience members what it means to commission as an officer.

“Receiving a commission as a second lieutenant puts an officer on a distinct career path that can lead to the very top of our organization,” said Reisch. “These 15 Soldiers were initially selected and approved for the OCS program based on the potential others saw in them. Their successful completion of this course is absolute proof of their potential.”

In order to commission as officers these Soldiers endured a culmination of three intense phases of training, which has prepared these officer candidates for the next step in their military career, said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, 1st Battalion, 196th RTI commander.

The intense training consisted of basic military tasks including physical training, drill and ceremony and troop leading procedures. During the training, the Soldiers were placed in high-stress environments and challenged to make leadership decisions.

“Nobody is born a leader... leaders are developed,” said Bartunek. “We give the officer candidates the tenets of leadership, take them through the tactical portion and give them the skills to go on to become the future leaders of our organization.”

The second lieutenants will now be assigned to units across the state and will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course where they will continue to train in leadership, tactics and branch specific capabilities.

Several presentations were made throughout the ceremony to include:

- The Battalion Leadership Award was presented to the 881st Troop Command, of Sturgis, and the 152nd Combat Support Sustainment Brigade, of Pierre, for the greatest number of students graduating from Officer Candidate School.

- Second Lt. Mark Bubac received the Endeavor Award for demonstrating the highest degree of consistent advancement, perseverance and devotion to duty during the training year.
- Second Lt. Jacob Moore earned the Academic Excellence Award by attaining the highest academic rating for the school year. Moore also earned the Leadership Excellence Award for attaining the highest leadership evaluations during the training year.
- Second Lt. Julieanne Morse earned the Army Physical Fitness Award for scoring the highest on the Army Physical Fitness Test.
- Second Lt. Patrick Moran earned the Erickson Trophy, awarded to the OCS graduate with the highest combined overall standing in leadership evaluations, academics, physical fitness and peer evaluations. It is given by the authority of the Department of the Army and the Air Force, National Guard Bureau, and is named in memory of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau at the time the award was initiated, Maj. Gen. Edgar Erickson.

The following is the list of graduating officer candidates:

Name	Home Town	Unit of Assignment
2nd Lt. LeAnn Hansen-Conn	Aberdeen	Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
2nd Lt. Eric Brockhoft	Brookings	152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
2nd Lt. Michael Ordal	Colton	115th Brigade Signal Company
2nd Lt. Jacob Vissia	Harrisburg	153rd Engineer Battalion
2nd Lt. Darin Lewno	Hartford	155th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Trevor Reisch	Howard	842 Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Ivor Swanson	Rapid City	200th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Mark Bubac	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. David Herrick	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. Jacob Moore	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. Russell Reed	Rapid City	Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment
2nd Lt. Patrick Moran	Rapid City	155th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Harley Lynch	Sioux Falls	115th Brigade Signal Company
2nd Lt. Alejandro Reyes	Sioux Falls	200th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Julieanne Morse	Spearfish	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



140816-A-CW157-033: U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, administers the Oath of Office to 15 newly commissioned second lieutenants during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park Aug. 16, 2014. The second lieutenants will be assigned to units across the state as future leaders in the South Dakota Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen/Released)



140816-A-CW157-070: Fifteen South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers took the Oath of Office and commissioned as second lieutenants during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park Aug. 16, 2014. The second lieutenants will be assigned to units across the state as future leaders in the South Dakota Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen/Released)



140816-A-CW157-193: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Eric Brockhoft, of Brookings, S.D., gets his bars pinned on by his mother, Sharleen, and his brother, Taylor, during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park Aug. 16, 2014. Brockhoft will be assigned to the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion in Pierre. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt.1st Class Theanne Tangen/Released)



140816-A-CW157-305: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Patrick Moran, of Rapid City, S.D., gets his bars pinned on by his wife, Jacey, and daughter, Monica, during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park Aug. 16, 2014. Moran will be assigned to the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company in Wagner. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt.1st Class Theanne Tangen/Released)



140816-A-CW157-353: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Julieanne Morse, of Spearfish, S.D., gets her bars pinned on by her brothers, Gilbert, left, and Daniel, right, during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony Aug. 16, 2014, at Mount Rushmore National Park. Morse will be assigned to the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt.1st Class Theanne Tangen/Released)

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